IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A protective switching device ~~having~~comprising:

—— an operating switching device ~~(2) for switching~~to switch a load on and off~~,~~;

—— a disconnection device ~~for disconnection of~~to disconnect an input terminal from an output terminal, connectable ~~which can be connected~~ to the appliance to be driven~~,~~; and

— a protective device ~~for protection~~to protect ~~of~~ the appliance to be driven against short circuits,

~~characterized in that~~

——the protective device ~~has~~ including a fuse ~~(3)~~ in each phase for disconnection in the event of a short circuit, with the operating switching device, the disconnection device and the protective device being connected in series and being integrated in a housing.

2. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in claim 1, ~~which is~~wherein the protective device is in the form of at least one of a semiconductor motor controller, a semiconductor contactor ~~or~~ and an electromechanical switching device.

3. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~in which~~wherein the at least one fuse ~~(3) can be removed~~is removable from the housing.

4. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein the at least one fuse ~~(3)~~ is in the form of a semiconductor protective fuse.

5. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein the protective device is arranged between the disconnection device and an output terminal to the appliance to be driven.

6. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein the disconnection device, when in the open state, disconnects and releases the at least one fuse ~~(3)~~ from at least one contact, for removal.

7. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, further comprising at least one of a rotary and slide mechanism for opening and closing the disconnection device ~~can be opened and closed by means of a rotary or slide mechanism~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein the at least one fuse ~~(3)~~ is in the form of a cylindrical fuse.

9. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1,

wherein the disconnection device ~~has~~ includes the functionality of a fused load disconnector.

10. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein the disconnection device ~~has~~ includes two disconnection points.

11. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein the at least one fuse ~~(3)~~ is arranged in a moving part ~~(6)~~ of the disconnection device.

12. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, which has~~claim 1, further comprising a monitoring device for recording of tripping of the at least one fuse ~~(3)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~claim 1, wherein electronic switching points ~~can be bridged~~are bridgeable by mechanical contacts.

14. (Currently Amended) The protective switching device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, which has~~claim 1, further comprising an overload device.

15. (Currently Amended) The protective switching apparatus as claimed in claim 14, ~~in which~~wherein the overload device ~~has~~ includes an overload relay.

16. (Currently Amended) A protective switching device ~~having~~ comprising three current paths as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 for three-pole appliances, ~~in which~~wherein at least one of the current paths has no operating switching device.

17. (New) The protective switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one fuse is removable from the housing.

18. (New) The protective switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one fuse is in the form of a semiconductor protective fuse.

19. A protective switching device comprising:

means for switching a load on and off;

means for disconnecting an input terminal from an output terminal, connectable to the appliance to be driven; and

means for protecting the appliance to be driven against short circuits, the means for protecting including means, in each phase, for disconnecting in the event of a short circuit, with the means for switching, the means for disconnecting and the means for protecting being connected in series and being integrated in a housing.

20. (New) The protective switching device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means, in each phase, for disconnecting in the event of a short circuit includes a fuse in each phase, at least one fuse being removable from the housing.